Completion of road projects

†2195. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various projects related with road construction in the country and the date of completion of each project;

(b) the reasons for delay in their completion;

(c) whether the delay is being caused in the road projects because of their review being made by "Public Private partnership Appraisal Committee"; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure completion of all projects as scheduled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Government has taken up the major development of National Highways under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) in different phases, details of which are as under:

(i) NHDP Phase-I-This mainly consists of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project which envisaged 4/6 laning of National Highways connecting Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata. 92.6% of the GQ has been completed as on 31.07.2006 and it is expected that 96% of the project would be completed by December, 2006. Balance of 4% stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, reaward of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) NHDP Phase-II-This mainly consists of construction of North-South and East-West Corridors. Under NS corridor the National Highways connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari including Salem-Kochi Spur, and under EW corridor National Highways connecting Porbandar to Silchar are to be 4/6 laned. The Project is likely to be completed substantially by December, 2008.

(iii) NHDP Phase-III-11113 km of National Highways has been approved under third phase. Out of this 4/6 laning of 4000 km on Build Operate and Transfer basis has been approved under NHDP Phase IIIA and preparation of Detailed Project Report for the remaining stretches. NHDP Phase IIIA is targeted to be completed by December, 2009.

(iv) National Highways Development Project would also have Phases IV, V, VI and VII. Financing plan for these phases has been approved by the Committee on Infrastructure.

(i) Upgradation of about 20,000 km of single/intermediate lane National Highways to 2-lanes with paved shoulders under NHDP Phase IV.

(ii) 6 laning of 6,500 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase V.

(iii) Development of 1,000 km Expressways under NHDP Phase VI.

(iv) Construction of bypasses, flyovers, ROBs etc. at required locations under NHDP Phase VII.

The NHDP Phase IV, V, VI and VII is targeted to be completed by December, 2015.

(b) There has been some delays in the completion of NHDP Phase-I due to problem associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, difficulty in environment and forest clearance and poor performance of some contractors etc.

(c) Presently, no projects has been reviewed by Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee.

(d) The steps taken to expedite the projects are indicated in the Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken to expedite the projects

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:—

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways and Minister, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

(b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearnaces etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and taken action to resolve the problems.

(c) A Committe of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting environment approvals, clearnace of Road Over Bridges etc.

(d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.

(e) To expedie the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.